

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as indicated below:

Please replace the paragraph at page 25, lines 8-21, to read as follows:

Delete plasmids, which were constructed from the 1.6 kb DNA fragments with the aid of an *exo*/Mungbean delete kit (Takara, Japan), were amplified. 2 μ l of the prepared plasmids prepared from the mutant cells was denatured with 2 N NaOH, neutralized with ammonium acetate (pH 4.5), allowed to precipitate by ethanol, and dissolved in deionized water. Using a Sequenase kit (USB, U.S.A.), the denatured plasmids were labeled and 4 μ l of the reaction was boiled for 3 min and electrophoresed on 8% polyacrylamide-8M urea gel at 1500-1700 V for 3 hours. The gel was dried and exposed to X-ray film at -70°C for about 8 hours. The reading of the base sequence which appeared on the sensitized X-ray film revealed that the total levansucrase gene including its one termination codon is 1800 ~~1,981~~ bp long: the structural gene corresponding to the amino acid sequence is 1269 bp long. The base sequence of the levansucrase gene and the amino acid sequence deduced therefrom are as shown in Fig. 3.

Please delete the paragraph at page 26, line 17, as follows:

~~TABLE 2: reduction of Levan According to pH of Buffer~~

(g/l)

Please amend the paragraph at page 27, lines 1-19, to read as follows:

With the aid of a protein-peptide sequencing system (Applied Biosystems, Model 477A), the amino acid sequence of the purified levansucrase was determined at its -terminal in the Edman degradation procedure. As a result, a stretch of seven amino acid residues ~~, Met-Leu-Asn-Lys-Ala-Gly-Ile,~~ was sequenced, reflecting the corresponding base sequence of the DNA. In particular, the levU gene was revealed to have no base sequences which correspond to the signal peptides, which are usually found in secretory proteins. The nucleotide and amino acid sequences of the levansucrase gene from *Z. mobilis* was registered in the GenBank, U.S.A. (Accession No. AF081588).

Please replace Fig 3 (sheet 3 of 9) of the application with the Replacement Sheet appended to this Response.